Research projects submitted to IDSA

2465. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the research project reports submitted by both the civilian and military personnel under the fellowship scheme at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi, since July, 2001 till date;

(b) the details of criteria adopted by the Executive Council for award of research fellowship projects and whether the criteria and recruitment policy of the Institute has been uniform since inception, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of foreign travels made and foreign fellowships availed by IDSA research faculty from July 2001, till date; and

(d) whether there are instances where individual scholars have availed more than one fellowship, violating established Government norms and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Scholars working on research projects present research papers, occasional papers, monographs books etc. on various topics. The number of papers presented by IDSA fellows at Fellow's Seminar between July 2001 and March 2007 are 73 by defence officers and 178 by civilian personnel. In addition 28 monographs, occasional papers and others papers were also published.

(b) The broad criterion for award of research Fellowship projects is as follows:—

(i) A Doctorate or Masters degree with research experience (varying for different levels of Fellowship, between 3 to 15 years) and/or published work.

(ii) The candidate's research proposal should be in line with IDSA's charter.

The Institute's Executive Council/Appointments Committee selects Research Fellows having regard to the Institute's needs and the availability of Candidates. The recruitment policy of the Institute was modified in the 87th meeeting of the Executive Council held on November 23, 1993 in the

light of Late Shri Nikhil Chakravarty Committee Report submitted in July 1992.

(c) 11 IDSA scholars undertook research fellowship abroad since July 2001. In addition, 179 scholars went abroad during the period to attend seminars, workshops etc.

(d) Scholars under fellowship projects in IDSA have been permitted to go for fellowships in Institutions abroad for limited period of time and they have been permitted to draw Fellowship stipend abroad for lcoal expenses. Thus, Fellowship allowances have been allowed to be drawn to enable them to finance their stay abroad during the Fellowship period.

Review of DRDO

2466. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Expert Committee set up to conduct a comprehensive review of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Committee has been constituted on 8th February 2007, under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Rama Rao with seven members-four superannuated officers one each from the three Services and from Defence Finance, and one each from Industry, Public Sector Units (PSUs), and Academic Institutions.

(b) No, Sir. The committee has just begun its work and is expected to complete its task by end of the year.

(c) Does not arise.

Lagging behind in the field of artillery

2467. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is still lagging behind in the field of artillery;